

Futures Initiative Meetings Coming Up

The schedule of meetings for November:

- Tuesday, November 1: Inpatient work group, 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Howard Center's administrative office, 208 Flynn Avenue, Burlington. On the agenda:
 - RFP for actuarial services (see separate item in this Update),
 - IMD implications,
 - Criteria for selecting site & partner(s) for primary inpatient site,
 - Criteria for selecting site(s) & partner(s) for "smaller capacities"
 - Next steps.
- Wednesday, November 9: Sub acute/secure residential work group, 9-11 a.m., Dr. Simpatico's office, Vermont State Hospital, Waterbury.
- Wednesday, November 16: Futures Advisory Group, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (note change of time), Room 100, Stanley Hall, Waterbury State Office Complex.
- Friday, November 18: Care management work group, 9-11 a.m., Conference Room 2, Central Vermont Hospital, Berlin

Sub Acute Proposals Advance

Howard Center and Counseling Services of Addison County are in the final stages of acquiring the proposed building in Vergennes for a sub acute rehabilitation facility. Renovations, including installation of a sprinkler system, installation of safety glass, and interior modifications, are being planned. A formal request to the city has been made to allow continued use of the building under an existing conditional-use permit. Staff recruitment will begin as soon as the purchase is finalized.

The Northeast Kingdom Human Services has forwarded a proposed purchase and sales agreement to the owner of the Concord property that is under consideration for another sub acute rehabilitation facility. In the meantime, the agency has located a second property with potential to serve both sub acute rehabilitation and secure residential programming in the same location. Informal dialogue with leaders in this second community to assess the willingness to host such programming is in progress. This second option offers a back-up plan if negotiations with the Concord property owner do not proceed or if the property proves too expensive to renovate to care-setting standards.

Inpatient CON To Require Actuarial Analysis

The Department of Banking, Insurance, Securities and Health Care Administration (BISHCA) has informed the Futures Initiative that an inpatient services Certificate of Need (CON) would require an independent, actuarial analysis based on the incidence and prevalence of mental

illness. Such an analysis would determine the overall number of psychiatric inpatient beds for adults that Vermont will need, projected 10 years into the future. The February Futures Report calls for 32 Vermont State Hospital inpatient replacement beds, based on current capacity and utilization. The incidence/prevalence projection approach is consistent with the state's new Health Resources Allocation Plan (HRAP) principles, but some mental health stakeholders have expressed concern that it does not adequately take into account the strengths of our community-based system of care. The Futures inpatient work group has provided significant feedback about how to structure an RFP for a study that is both consistent with HRAP principles and reflective of our unique context. The draft RFP is posted on the Mental Health Update webpage; feedback can be sent to Beth Tanzman (btanzman@vdh.state.vt.us) until the Tuesday evening meeting of the Inpatient work group.

RFP Issued for Inpatient Architectural Design, Development

The Department of Buildings and General Services (BGS) has issued an RFP to targeted architectural firms with experience in psychiatric inpatient design to perform programming, site evaluation, and schematic design services for a primary facility and one or two smaller capacities. Proposals are due on November 9. BGS Commissioner Tasha Wallis has worked cooperatively with the Health Department to design a selection process that incorporates stakeholder input and inpatient expertise without compromising the established BGS procedures. This work is to be completed by April 30.

VSH Census

The Vermont State Hospital census was 45 as of midnight Thursday night. The average census for the past 45 days was between 46 and 47.

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